

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) ~~A wide-area object tracking system comprising:~~
~~—— at least one primary base station and a pair of secondary base stations; each of said pair of secondary base stations being so coupled to said primary base station to define a tag detecting cell; each of said primary and two secondary base stations being configured to receive a tag signal broadcast from a tag attached to an object to be tracked, yielding three received signals indicative of the location of said tag within said cell; whereby a plurality of overlapping said tag detecting cell in a given space would allow tracking objects at any place within said given space;~~
~~—— a central server coupled to said at least one primary base station; and~~ A system as recited in claim 8, further comprising
at least one tag recording unit for activating said tag and being coupled to said central server.
2. (Original) A system as recited in claim 1, comprising a plurality of primary base stations.
3. (Original) A system as recited in claim 2, wherein each of said plurality of primary base stations including an inter-primary base station communication system allowing communication between any one of said plurality of primary base stations.
4. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 3, said inter-primary base station communication system allows to relay a communication from any one of said plurality of primary base stations to said central server.
5. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 4, wherein a first number of primary base stations is located in a first premises and a second number of primary base stations is located in a second premises; said first and second numbers of primary base stations being respectively coupled to said central server via first and second additional primary base stations.

6. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 4, comprising a portable control unit configured to be coupled to at least one of said plurality of primary base stations; said inter-primary base station communication system allowing to relay a communication between said portable control unit and said central server.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Currently amended) A wide area object tracking system, comprising:
at least one primary base station and a pair of secondary base stations; each of said pair of secondary base stations being so coupled to said primary base station as to define a tag detecting cell; each of said primary and two secondary base stations being configured to receive a tag signal broadcast from a tag attached to an object to be tracked, yielding three received signals indicative of the location of said tag within said cell; whereby a plurality of overlapping said tag detecting ~~cell~~ cells in a given space would allow tracking objects at any place within said given space;
a central server coupled to said at least one primary base station; and
wherein said at least one primary base station is configured so as to communicate using three communication channel; a first communication channel being used to communicate with said tag; a second communication ~~channel~~ channels being used to communicate with said central server; and a third communication channel being used to communicate with at least one of other primary base stations, said pair of secondary base stations, and a portable control unit.
9. (Original) A system as recited in claim 8, wherein said first, second, and third communication channels are secured.
10. (Currently amended) A system as recited in claim 8, wherein said first, second, and third communication ~~channel~~ channels being implemented under the IEEE 802.11 protocol.
11. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein said central server includes a user-interface to display tag movements in said space.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein activating said tag includes generating an identification code and storing said identification code in at least one of i) a memory of said tag recording unit, ii) a memory of said at least one tag, and iii) a memory of said central server.

14. (Original) A system as recited in claim 13, wherein said tag recording unit is further configured to compare identification codes stored in said memory of said central server with identification codes stored in said memory of said tag recording unit.

15. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein said tag recording unit is wirelessly coupled to said central server.

16. (Currently amended) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein said tag recording unit includes at least one of a visual display, a tag input port for communication with said tag, and input means allowing a person to associate information to [[a]] said tag.

17. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a tag tracking terminal coupled to said central server for retrieving from said central server object-related information.

18. (Original) A system as recited in claim 17, wherein said tag tracking terminal is wirelessly coupled to said central server.

19. (Original) A system as recited in claim 17, wherein said tag tracking terminal includes a display screen or a touch screen.

20. (Original) A system as recited in claim 17, wherein said tag tracking terminal includes a telephone.

21. (Currently amended) A wide area object tracking system comprising:

at least one primary base station and a pair of secondary base stations; each of said pair of secondary base stations being so coupled to said primary base station as to define a tag detecting cell; each of said primary and two secondary base stations being configured to receive a tag signal broadcast from a tag attached to an object to be tracked, yielding three received signals indicative of the location of said tag within said cell; whereby a plurality of overlapping said tag detecting cells in a given space would allow tracking objects at any place within said given space;

a central server coupled to said at least one primary base station; and

a tag recovery apparatus coupled to said central server

wherein said tag recovery apparatus includes a device to input a tag unlocking code, a tag depository compartment for receiving tags, and a guarantee ticket distributor to provide a guarantee ticket in exchange for a tag provided in said tag depository compartment.

22. (Original) A system as recited in claim 21, wherein said tag recovery apparatus is wirelessly coupled to said central server.

23. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 21, wherein said tag including a rechargeable power source; said tag recovery apparatus being configured to recharge the power source.

24. (Cancelled).

25. (Currently amended) A system as recited in ~~claim 24~~ claim 21, wherein said tag recovery apparatus being configured to forward information to said central server about tags received in said tag depository compartment.

26. (Currently amended) A system as recited in ~~claim 24~~ claim 21, wherein said guarantee ticket being selected from the group consisting of cash and discount coupon.
27. (Original) A system as recited in claim 26, wherein said tag is rented and said guarantee ticket is issued in exchange for said rented tag.
28. (Currently amended) A system as recited in ~~claim 24~~ claim 21, further comprising at least one tag to be attached to an object to be tracked; said at least one tag including a casing and attaching means releasably secured to said casing; said attaching means including a loop having two ends and being secured to said casing at one end and releasably mounted in said casing at its other end; said other end being releasably mounted in said casing via a releasable locking mechanism; said tag recovery apparatus being configured to receive a list of central server tag unlocking codes from said central server for comparison with inputted tag unlocking code both to be used in assessing if said releasable locking mechanism should be unlocked.
29. (Currently amended) A system as recited in ~~claim 24~~ claim 21, wherein said tag recovery apparatus includes a display screen and a controller configured so as to display on said display screen a menu offering different form of retribution in exchange for tags.
30. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a tag inventory managing server coupled to said server; said tag inventory managing server being configured for communication with a remote central server.
31. (Original) A system as recited in claim 30, wherein said central server is located in a first airport and said remote central server is located in a second airport; whereby said tag inventory managing server allows to securely interconnect said central server and said remote central server for communication therebetween.

32. (Original) A system as recited in claim 30, wherein said tag inventory managing apparatus is remotely connected to said central server via a network.
33. (Currently amended) A system as recited in claim 32, wherein said network is selected from the group consisting of a dedicated network[[,]] and the Internet.
34. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein said central server is coupled to a memory device for storing object-oriented information.
35. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 34, further comprising a back-up server coupled to said central server, to said memory device, and to said at least one primary base station for mirroring and monitoring said central server; said back-up server being configured to detect a fault of said central server and to continue the operation of said central server whenever said fault is detected.
36. (Original) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein said primary base station includes at least one of a controller, a memory, a receiver, and a transceiver.
37. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein said pair of secondary base stations being wirelessly coupled to said at least one primary base station.
38. (Currently amended) A system as recited in claim 1, ~~further comprising: wherein~~
~~at least one of~~ said tag to be attached to an object to be tracked; ~~said at least one tag~~
~~including comprises~~ a power source[[,]] and a memory to be programmed with object-related information pertaining to said object to be tracked, and said tag being configured so as to generate and transmit via a transmitter said tag signal indicative of said object-related information.
39. (Currently amended) A system as recited in claim 38, wherein said object-related information is selected ~~from~~ from the group consisting of a code identifying a boarding airport, a

code identifying a transit airport, a code identifying a destination airport, and information about the owner of said object.

40. (Currently amended) A system as recited in claim 38, wherein said ~~at least one~~ tag includes a casing and attaching means releasably secured to said casing.

41. (Original) A system as recited in claim 40, wherein said attaching means includes a loop having two ends and being secured to said casing at one end and releasably mounted in said casing at its other end.

42. (Original) A system as recited in claim 41, wherein said other end is releasably mounted in said casing via a releasable locking mechanism.

43. (Currently amended) A system as recited in claim 42, wherein said ~~at least one~~ tag ~~being~~ is configured to transmit a request signal after said other end is locked in said locking mechanism.

44. (Currently amended) A system as recited in claim 38, wherein said ~~at least one~~ tag is configured to emit a visual signal.

45. (Currently amended) A system as recited in claim 38, wherein said ~~at least one~~ tag further includes a receiver.

46. (Currently amended) A system as recited in claim 38, wherein said memory is further to be programmed with tag-related information; said ~~at least one~~ tag being further configured so as to generate and transmit via said transmitter said tag signal indicative of said object-related information and said tag-related information.

47. (Currently amended) A system as recited in claim 46, wherein said tag-related information includes at least one of the power level of said tag signal[[,]] and the battery level of said tag.

48. (Currently amended) A system as recited in claim 1, ~~further comprising at least one wherein said~~ portable control unit is wirelessly coupled to said system and said portable control unit is being configured to receive at least one of said tag signal and object-related information.

49. (Original) A system as recited in claim 48, wherein said portable control unit being configured to trigger a sleep mode on said tag.

50. (Currently amended) A system as recited in claim 49, wherein said portable control unit being is configured to re-activate [[a]] said tag in [[a]] said sleep mode.

51. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 48, wherein said portable control unit being configured to be coupled to said central server.

52. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 51, further comprising a plurality of tags; said portable control unit allowing to request selected tags from said plurality of tags to broadcast their respective tag signals to be received by said portable control unit.

53. (Original) A system as recited in claim 52, wherein said portable control unit includes pre-stored object-related information; said portable control unit being configured for comparing said pre-stored object-related information to said object-related information to create a list of missing tags.

54. (Original) A system as recited in claim 53, wherein said pre-stored object-related information being received from said central server.

55. (Original) A system as recited in claim 53, wherein said portable control unit being configured to send said list of missing tags to said central server; said central server being configured to initiate a tag retrieving procedure when said list of missing tags is not empty.

56. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 51, wherein said object-related information includes information concerning a plane to be boarded by said at least one tag or a plane from which said at least one tag is unloaded; said tag being selected on the basis of said information concerning said plane to be boarded by said at least one tag or said plane from which said at least one tag is unloaded.

57. (Original) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein said object is selected from the group consisting of baggage, goods, people, and animal.

58 - 87. (Cancelled)